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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1, 4-16, 18 and 20. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 17 and 19. Accordingly, claims 3, 17 and 19 have been canceled, along with claim 2. Claims 4-6 have been amended in view of the amendment to claim 1, and to depend on claim 1. Claims 11-15 have been amended to improve their form, and claims 18 and 20 have been amended to depend on claim 1. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 60000931. The remaining claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '931 in view of *Sawa et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0085104*.

Essentially the Examiner's position was that JP '931 discloses the conveyor belt recited in the claims except for the reinforcement elements extending over the entire width of the belt, that *Sawa et al.* discloses this feature, and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

incorporate such reinforcement elements into JP '931 in order to ensure that the whole belt is reinforced.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in claim 1 as amended, Applicants' invention provides a conveyor belt having a bearing side and a backing side made of elastomer material, as well as an embedded reinforcement carrier. The bearing side is reinforced with ball-type elements having a diameter of 1 to 5 mm disposed within a single layer. The elastomer density of the ball-type element reinforcement is 1.0 to 2.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. In this way, Applicant's invention provides a conveyor belt having an improved impact protection or cut protection.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests a conveyor belt having the structure recited in Applicant's claim 1 as amended, or teaches the benefit achieved from reinforcing a bearing side with ball type elements as recited in claim 1 as amended. The primary reference to JP '931 discloses a conveyor belt that is provided with reinforcement on the carrying side among other things. JP '931 also speaks about an interlaid scrim (laying) as well as "sticking" the meaning of which is unclear.

In any event, there is no disclosure or suggestion in JP '931 that the conveyor belt disclosed therein is provided with a ball reinforcement.

The defects and deficiencies of the primary reference to JP '931 are nowhere remedied by the secondary reference to Sawa et al. Like JP '931, Sawa et al. relates to a conveyor belt that is provided with reinforcement on the carrying side among other things. The reinforcement particles have a microstructure with particular reference being made to the range of 3 to 300 micrometers. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a conveyor belt wherein the bearing side is reinforced with ball type elements as recited in Applicant's claim 1 as amended. Moreover, with the 3 to 300 micrometer range in Sawa et al. it is clear that ball construction in this micro range is not possible. In addition, Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 as amended, specifies that the diameter of the ball type elements is 1 to 5 mm, an order of magnitude which the micro range specified in Sawa et al. can not achieve.

Moreover, as recited in Applicants' claim 1 as amended, the elastomer density of the ball reinforcement is 1.0 to 2.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, which further distinguishes claim 1 from JP '931 and Sawa et al.

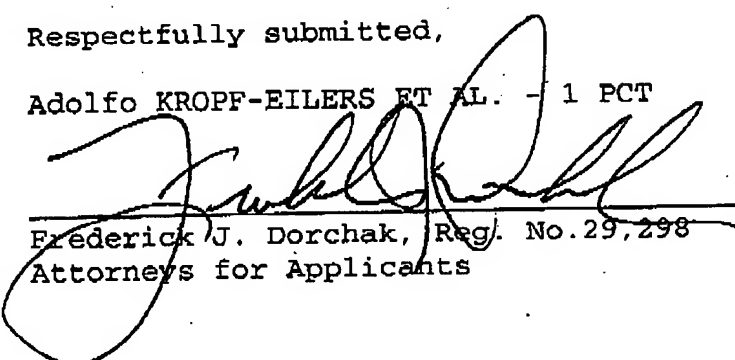
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the cited references.

In summary, claims 1, 4-6, 11-15, 18 and 20 have been amended, and claims 2, 3, 17 and 19 have been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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